

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 HEW-06 OES-05 AGR-10 EB-07 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /112 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 283

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

UNCLAS USUN 1589

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, EAID, VS, VN,CB,LA,UNHCR, UNICEF

SUBJECT: UN OPI PRESS BRIEFING MAY 12: INDOCHINA

1. FAO OFFICIAL RAYMOND AUBRAC, WHO HAS BEEN IN HANOI AS SYG WALDHEIM'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, SPOKE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES AT UN OPI PRESS CONFERENCE, MAY 12:

A) AT END OF PARIS CONFERENCE IN EARLY 1973, SYG WALDHEIM "HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT ORGANIZATIONS OF UN FAMILY WOULD CARRY OUT HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS FOR BENEFIT OF PARTIES CONCERNED IN VIETNAM." AS RESULT, UNICEF AND UNHCR WORLED IN NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM.

B) WHEN SITUATION WORSENERD IN MARCH 1975, HANOI AND PRG, AFTER INQUIRES, SAID THEY WOULD RECEIVE AUBRAC AS WALDHEIM'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE. AFTER GETTING VISA IN PARIS, AUBRAC ARRIVED HANOI APRIL 16. HE DEPARTED HANOI MAY 7 AND REPORTED BACK TO WALDHEIM IN NEW YORK MAY 9.

C) IN HANOI, AUBRAC WAS MET AT AIRPORT BY NORTH VIETNAMESE MFA REPRESENTATIVES AND PEOPLE FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

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D) FIRST OFFICIAL CONTACTS WERE WITH PRG SPECIAL

REPRESENTATIVE IN NORTH VIETNAM GUYEN VAN THIEN. HE ALSO MET NORTH VIETNAM'S VICE FOREIGN MINISTER GUYEN CO THACH. AUBRAC MET BOTH SEVERAL TIMES. JUST BEFORE DEPARTING HANOI, AUBRAC SAW PM PHAN VAN DONG. AUBRAC SAID "BOTH GOVERNMENTS EXPRESSED VERY DEEP APPRECIATION FOR UNICEF AND UNHCR WORK."

E) AUBRAC SAID TWO OR THREE PLANES ARRIVED DAILY IN HANOI FROM VIENTIANE WITH RELIEF GOODS FOR DELIVERY TO PRG AREAS. AUBRAC STRESSED " NEEDS ENORMOUS" AFTER 30 YEARS WAR. ACCORDING AUBRAC, PRG NEEDS IMMEDIATE HUMANITARIAN AID, E.G. FOOD, MEDICINE, CLOTHES AND AGRICULTURAL TOOLS. SITUATION DIFFERENT IN NORTH WHERE MOST URGENT NEEDS ARE COVERED, BUT WHERE THERE ARE ENORMOUS PROBLEMS RELATED TO HOUSING RECONSTRUCTION AS WELL AS TO AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL REDEVELOPMENT.

F) AUBRAC EMPHASIZED THAT BOTH NORTH VIETNAM AND PRG HAVE EXPRESSED CLEARLY THEIR DESIRE TO RECEIVE "HELP AND SUPPORT FROM ALL SOURCES, GOVERNMENTAL OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL, BILATERAL OR MULTI-LATERAL." BOTH WANT TO WORK AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE THROUGH UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES.

G) AUBRAC STRESSED UN IN NO WAY INVOLVED WITH PROGRAM OF EVACUATION FROM VIETNAM, BUT ONCE REFUGEES OUT UNHCR COMES INTO PICTURE AND HAS GONE INTO ACTION.

2. SOME OF AUBRAC'S REPLIES TO QUESTIONS FOLLOWS:

A) AUBRAC HAS NO OFFICIAL INFORMATION ON WHETHER NORTH AND SOUTH WANT TO REMAIN SEPARATE OR TO UNIFY. PERSONALLY, HE FEELS REUNIFICATION IS AIM BUT NOT "TOMORROW MORNING".

B) ASKED WHETHER PRG ACTING INDEPENDENTLY OR UNDER HANOI'S DIRECTION, AUBRAC SAID HE IS NOT GOOD AT GUESSING WHAT IS IN PEOPLE'S MINDS. THERE ARE CLEAR LINKS, BUT STRUCTURES OF TWO GOVERNMENTS SEEM DIFFERENT. FOR INSTANCE, PRG "STILL RECOGNIZED CATHOLICS, BUDDHISTS AND OTHERS WITHIN POLITICAL FRAMEWORK WHILE NORTH VIETNAM DOES NOT.
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